



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/092,236	03/06/2002	Dennis Albert Littrell		5111

7590
Dennis A. Littrell
11 Green Oak Rd.
Asheville, NC 28804

09/12/2003

6
EXAMINER

SMITH, DUANE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1724

DATE MAILED: 09/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Art Unit: 1724

The amendment filed on 8-7-03 canceling all claims drawn to the elected invention and presenting only claims drawn to a non-elected invention is non-responsive (MPEP § 821.03). The remaining claims are not readable on the elected invention because instant claims 11-13 relate to a method of contacting a vapor and liquid which is independent and distinct from originally presented claims 1-10 to an air washer. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions to claims 11-13 and to claims 1-10 are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process. (MPEP § 806.05(e)). In this case, the apparatus can be used to practice another and materially different process such as washing of air with liquid to remove contaminants and the process can be practiced with another and materially different apparatus such as a carburetor.

Since the above-mentioned amendment appears to be a *bona fide* attempt to reply, applicant is given a TIME PERIOD of ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this notice within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a) ARE AVAILABLE.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Duane S. Smith whose telephone number is 703-308-3792. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-6:00 M-TH.

Art Unit: 1724

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Blaine Copenheaver can be reached on 703-308-1261. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0651.

Duane S. Smith
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1724

DSS
9-8-07

Dss
9-8-03